



Education and Exhibits Update: March 27, 2019

1. This month, Director of Education Dr. Zack Jud wrote and submitted a full **proposal to the Frances Langford Fund** grant program in the amount of **\$22,374** to create the “Coastal Classroom Explorers” program. These funds will allow us to develop and deliver free educational classroom lessons, activities, and presentations to elementary schools and after school programs in Martin County. This was an invited proposal, following our initial submission of a Letter of Intent to the Community Foundation - Martin and St. Lucie. Zack also spoke during a site visit as part of Florida Oceanographic’s Impact 100 Martin grant request.
2. The final three lectures of the 2019 **Coastal Lecture Series** were held in March. At our March 4<sup>th</sup> lecture, Dr. Chris Stallings from the University of South Florida spoke to **160 guests** about his ongoing goliath grouper research. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Eric Reyier, a NASA biologist, spoke about gamefish research being conducted in and around the Kennedy Space Center to an **audience of 140**. At our final lecture, held on March 18<sup>th</sup>, Adam Schaefer, an epidemiologist from Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute spoke to 160 guests about the impacts of algae blooms and environmental toxins on the health of wildlife and humans. **This year’s lectures were attended by 1,430 members of our community, breaking our all-time attendance record. Our average attendance was 179 guests per lecture.**
3. This month, the Education Department led **9 field trips and 5 Virtual Field Trips**, in addition to daily educational programming at the Coastal Center.
4. Education Specialist Shannon Dack was awarded a scholarship to attend the **Florida Marine Science Educators Association annual conference** in Crystal River, FL. The scholarship will cover Shannon’s hotel room and conference registration fees. Education Specialist Yasmeen Fadlallah will also be attending this professional development conference.
5. Shannon led a special **guided beach walk field trip** for a homeschool group.
6. Yasmeen developed and implemented a hands-on, **interactive science lesson for Coastal Center guests** to help celebrate our “Gamefish Month” theme. Guests had the opportunity to see how fish use their swim bladder to create buoyancy. Plus, they got to create their own Japanese-style fish print to hang on the refrigerator.
7. Yasmeen and Zack led a **volunteer breakfast and nature trail walk** focused on the history of mosquito control impoundments in Florida.
8. Education Specialist Nicole Harper led an **adult-focused outreach presentation about sharks** at the Kilmer Library in Fort Pierce.
9. Nicole and Yasmeen completely **redesigned our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade field trip curriculum** to create a more interactive Coastal Center visit that touches on a greater number of state educational standards.

10. Nicole and Zack led two hands-on “Oyster Reefs as Habitat” field trips for 55 7<sup>th</sup> graders. These field trips started with an interactive classroom lesson focused on the ecological value of oysters. The students then headed to the Indian River Lagoon, where they bagged oyster shells for future restoration projects, and examined the various crabs, shrimp, snails, and fish that occupy restored oyster reefs.
11. Currently, 79% of the available spaces in Florida Oceanographic’s marine science summer camp program have been filled. At this time last year, we were only booked at 59% of our total capacity.
12. All four members of the Education Department team assisted the Development Department during our annual Oceans Alive gala.
13. Zack led a guided kayak nature tour on the winding south fork of the St. Lucie River for a donor and 6 guests. The guided kayak tour was purchased as an auction prize at last year’s Oceans Alive gala.
14. Zack conducted a classroom outreach program for a group of gifted and talented 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Felix Williams Elementary School. The presentation focused on the history of Florida’s water issues.
15. The Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative invited Zack to speak at their annual membership meeting. Zack’s presentation focused on sea turtle biology and conservation on local beaches.
16. WPTV interviewed Zack for 3 news stories this month (toxins from cyanobacteria found in dolphin brains; expansion plans for the Coastal Center; overview of programming offered to our community).
17. Zack gave a brief presentation about Florida Oceanographic’s educational programming during the “cash call” at this year’s Oceans Alive gala.